

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

**TESTIMONY OF JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

IN SUPPORT OF

GM 515

for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission,
Gubernatorial Nominee, **RANDY AWO**,
for a term to expire 6-30-2019.

March 27, 2018

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the nomination of Mr. Randy Awo to serve on the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Mr. Awo has been serving on the Commission since his appointment in August, and we are confident that he will continue contributing to thoughtful consideration and sound decision-making by the Commission.

Mr. Awo grew up on Hawaiian Homestead Land in Waimanalo and in 2006 was afforded an opportunity to return to Hawaiian Homestead Land in Waiehu Kou on Maui. He brings to the Hawaiian Homes Commission his experience growing up and living on Hawaiian Homestead Land as well as his administrative skills from 26 years of service with the Department of Land and Natural Resources. His extensive background in forming community to government partnerships through collaboration and educational outreach in order to promote conduct that fosters mutual respect and trust to achieve goals of common interest makes him the ideal candidate to serve on the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

We are truly grateful for Mr. Awo's commitment to serve on the Commission in support of Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole's legacy of returning native Hawaiians to their land. There's no better way of honoring Prince Kuhio's legacy than through the support of Mr. Awo's appointment to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

We respectfully request your favorable consideration of and urge this committee to advise and consent to this nomination.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, March 27, 2018
1:35 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 515
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAIIAN
HOMES COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE RANDY AWO, FOR A TERM
TO EXPIRE ON 06-30-19**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports the Governor's nomination of Mr. Randy Awo to the Hawaiian Homes Commission (Commission) for a term to expire on June 30, 2019. (Governor's Message 515).

Mr. Awo worked for the Department's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement for 26 years, rose through the ranks, culminating in his appointment as the Division Administrator and Enforcement Chief. Mr. Awo brings a wealth of knowledge to the Commission due to his experience dealing with sensitive cultural issues. Along with his passion and drive to support the Hawaiian community, the Department believes that he will be a valuable asset to serve on the Commission.

The Department reiterates its strong support on the confirmation of Mr. Randy Awo to the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



Pūnana Leo o
Maui

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Pūnana Leo o Wai'ananae

Pūnana Leo o Kona

Pūnana Leo o Waimea

Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Loa

Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko

March 26, 2018

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Chair, Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Support letter for gubernatorial nominee Randy Awo as a Commissioner for the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Aloha Senator Shimabukuro,

I am Kili Namau'u and I am the director of Pūnana Leo o Maui, the Hawaiian immersion preschool in Wailuku, Maui. I write to you today in support of Randy Awo as a commissioner of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL).

I have known Randy and his family for 30 years on Maui and I have great respect for this man and his wife, Momi. I believe it was his upbringing on the Waimanalo Homestead that shaped the character of Randy. He is grounded in his identity as a Hawaiian. He was raised in a community where neighbors were family to one another. *Aloha kekahi i kekahi, Mālama kekahi i kekahi.* It was a time when these homestead families nurtured their children to love and care for each other. Randy continues these practices today. As a current Waiehu homesteader, Randy has raised his own children and grandchildren to care for themselves, neighbors and their community.

Randy has a great appreciation for his Hawaiian culture, especially where that has intersected with our environment. He truly is a *kanaka 'āina*, a man of the land and a significant protector of our natural resources. I have witnessed his professional progression in the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). It is a testament to his management and leadership skills that he retired as the statewide chief of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE). A decade ago, the Super Ferry was a very controversial topic in our Maui community. This new mode of transportation began operations without regard to its environmental impact to the neighboring islands. At that time, Randy was the DLNR branch enforcement officer for Maui. He had the simultaneous duty to uphold the safety of this new transportation option and protecting the natural resources on the island. It was a very delicate balance. Randy stood before a contentious crowd and shared very articulately how difficult it was to protect these resources without the proper state support and funding. As a state employee, it was a bold move but a necessary one. Randy passionately spoke on behalf of our natural resources that day and gained tremendous respect from our community for it.

I have been affiliated with non-profit work for nearly 30 years and I recognize the importance of working closely and honestly with people in our community. Relationship building is essential. A work ethic is a must. Trustworthiness is crucial. Randy understands and embodies these traits. He is thought provoking and fair minded and most importantly, he recognizes and practices humility. I believe that Randy Awo would make a fine DHHL commissioner and will represent our native Hawaiian people well. Please support and confirm his nomination as commissioner to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Me ka 'o ia i' o a me ka ha'aha'a,

Kili Namau'u

Kili Namau'u
Kahu/Director
Pūnana Leo o Maui

E O I a K a ' Ō I e I o H a w a i ' i



March 21, 2018

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY OF DAWN N.S. CHANG, PRINCIPAL OF KU'IWALU CONSULTING

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 515

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, **RANDY AWO**
Hawaiian Homes Commission

The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair and Members of the Committee:

I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** the nomination of Randy Awo for appointment to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. I have personally and professionally known Randy for over 30 years, (1) in my capacity as a Deputy Attorney General advising the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), and (2) more recently in my capacity as a facilitator for the U.S. Department of Interior's 14 statewide public meetings on federal recognition.

Randy is a native Hawaiian who was born and raised in Waimanalo on Hawaiian Home Lands. Waimanalo homestead was a nurturing and familiar place for him and an area where he was raised and grounded in the values of 'ohana, kuleana, and self-sufficiency. He attributes his own identity as a proud native Hawaiian through his upbringing on Hawaiian Homestead. Currently, Randy resides on Hawaiian Home Lands on Maui, at Waiehu Kou, where he continues to ground his mo'opuna with the same strong Hawaiian values that came from living on homestead lands. When I asked why he wanted to be a Commissioner, his response was, "it's my kuleana to give back to the homestead community that gave me so much."

Randy's many years of experience with DLNR's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement gave him a greater understanding and appreciation for many of the issues that are relevant to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. He has learned that partnerships between government and the community help to ensure greater success in achieving goals together. His experience will be an asset to the Commission as the state faces the challenge of providing more housing to beneficiaries.

I respectfully ask that Randy Awo's nomination receive the consent of your committee and be forwarded to the full Senate for confirmation. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on Mr. Awo's nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

DAWN N.S. CHANG
Principal

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 2:53:17 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Blossom Feiteira	Testifying for Maui Moku-puni Council of the Hawaiian Homestead Associations	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee;

On behalf of the Maui Moku-puni Council of the Hawaiian Homestead Associations, we gratefully accept this opportunity to support the nomination of Mr. Randy Awo to the Maui seat of the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Our Moku-puni Council consists of the ten established homestead associations and three beneficiary organizations that work with and advocate on behalf of the applicants of the Hawaiian Homelands Trust.

Mr. Awo is well known to us in the homestead and beneficiary community both in his previous profession as the Branch chief of the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement and his current position as a Hawaiian Homes Commissioner for Maui. We recognize his wealth of knowledge and experience in the field of law enforcement and community engagement will serve our beneficiary community well as a Commissioner representing the island of Maui. As a fellow beneficiary and a homestead lessee himself, he is aware of the challenges we face, and has established his place in the current Commission as a true advocate on our behalf. He has served our island with honor and integrity, and continues to serve with humility and strength in our rights and position as beneficiaries, traits that we always appreciate in our representative.

We ask for your support in voting yes in your confirmation deliberations.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide our statement of support for Mr. Awo.

Sincerely,

Blossom Feiteira, President

Maui Moku-puni Council of the Hawaiian Homestead Associations

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/23/2018 2:31:18 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Perry O. Artates	Testifying for Waiohuli Hawaiian Homesteaders Association Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

GM515 In Support of Confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee Randy Awo, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Brickwood Galuteria and Committee Members.

I am Perry O. Artates, President of the Waiohuli Hawaiian Homesteaders Association Inc. We indulge your support in confirming Mr Randy Awo to the Hawaiian Homes Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2019.

Mr. Awo has displayed to be his Humbleness, Patience, and Integrity in Commission Meetings as well as Homestead Community Meetings throughout this State, and it is well taken by participants. His commitment to Volunteer his service as a Commissioner for DHHL will be a positive action in Preserving and Protecting The Trust of Prince Kuhio.

We anticipate in looking forward in his voluntary service towards our Future in representing his Community and State.

I am,

Perry O. Artates, President

Waiohuli Hawaiian Homesteaders Association Inc.

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/25/2018 3:53:19 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
carol lee kamekona	Testifying for ?Aina Ho?opulapula o Waohuli	Support	No

Comments:

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/26/2018 7:14:02 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Ornellas	Testifying for Waiehu kou phase 3 association inc	Support	No

Comments:

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/26/2018 9:04:52 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Momilani Awo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

I am in strong support of Randy Awo who is being considered for a position as commissioner for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Randy has developed a lifelong commitment to Hawaii and through his leadership in DLNR, has made significant and tangible contributions that has meaningful benefits to statewide communities. His work ethic, professional knowledge, aptitude and ability to remain calm and solution-focused in challenging situations will serve the DHHL well. Randy has the character and temperament needed as a DHHL commissioner.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share my support and for your consideration.

Respectfully

Momilani Awo

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/26/2018 8:02:37 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wanda Arvin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

March 24, 2018

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro

Chair, Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222

Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Shimabukuro,

My name is Wanda Leilani Arvin. I am in support of Randy Awo's nomination and confirmation to serve as the Hawaiian Homes Commissioner on Maui for a term that expires June 30, 2019.

Randy Awo is my brother. My brother is not much for fanfare. It is not in his nature. As I begin to write this testimony, my brother would most likely consider it too much attention for him. He is much like my father, who was a Game Warden, for the Department of Land and Natural Resources. My father's work ethic was one of quiet but authoritative demeanor during his career and set high expectations for himself. I see those same attributes in my brother.

As I write this testimony, it gives me the opportunity to show your committee why he is the ideal candidate for the commissioner position. It is also an acknowledgement to my parents who taught all of us that choosing a career path should benefit your community especially our Native Hawaiian community. It was our parents who taught us that how you contribute to your community sets the tone for that community's well being. It was a lesson we understood all too well because of my parents deep appreciation of being beneficiaries on Hawaiian Home Lands.

Our parents had the fore sight to teach us that although we lived on Hawaiian Home Lands changes were forthcoming and would affect us culturally, historically, and environmentally. Of all my siblings, my brother Randy took this to heart. It became a

deep-rooted passion that made him acutely aware of the changes that my parents spoke of.

It is because of this insight, his chosen career path led to the Department of Land and Natural Resources as a conservation officer on Maui and chief of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement during the last four years of his 26 year career. It was here that he was able to set the tone for the well being of his community and his family because of that passion.

Thus, it is my hope, that the short examples presented in this testimony will offer a snapshot of my brother's dedication to preserving our natural resources and his devotion to serving the needs of the Native Hawaiian community.

During his time with the Department of Land and Natural resources my brother was a quiet advocate for Hawaii's natural resources and continually emphasized the importance in protecting our natural resources for future generations. His reputation became known as the person who chose to be more of a collaborator in resolving issues of conflict than heated confrontation. It was his mantra even when some of the conflicts he encountered became contentious such as his stand against the Super Ferry and the negative impact it would have on the natural resources of Maui. His stand against a state Senate panel would have meant the possibility of losing his job. His speech before the panel, was a reminder of how we needed to protect our natural resources not only on Maui but throughout our state. It was a conviction that was steadfast. It was a surprise to those who did not know him but not to those who did. Throughout his career, the bottom line for him has always been to make ethical decisions that would result in a positive impact within his community. It was a skill that would serve him well during his career.

One of the most historical events that would occur during my brother's time as chief of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement was a request per Esther Kia'aina (who at the time was a federal official with the Department of Interior under the administration of President Barack Obama) to create a security plan for the Department of Interior's panel and support staff that would be arriving in Hawaii to conduct hearings on whether or not the federal government should initiate a government to government relationship with the native Hawaiian community. Because DOCARE had the experience in dealing with sensitive and emotional issues in the native Hawaiian community Esther felt it would be beneficial to have their presence at each hearing.

My brother accepted the request and became responsible for meeting with the Department of Interior's panel, support staff, county Police departments, and other State law enforcement partners to begin to formulate a plan that would provide a safe environment for everyone concerned.

On June 23, 2014, these hearings began and ended on July 8, 2014. There was a total of 15 meetings held in communities throughout the state. I attended one of the first hearings in Kaneohe on the island of Oahu and as anticipated these hearings became

quite emotional and intense. It was the responsibility of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) to keep the meetings civil and safe. In the end, all the planning that was done by Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) and its team of affiliates helped to provide a protected venue without any incidents leading to any arrests or law enforcement.

It was not only a learning lesson for me regarding government to government relationships in the native Hawaiian community but it gave me an opportunity to watch my brother at work in an atmosphere that he was so devoted too. My only regret was that my parents were not here to share that moment.

My brother's career was often met with controversy especially when it involved the disregard for our natural resources. In these circumstances, his formidable presence and the ability to speak from his heart on the importance of respecting our natural resources made people listen.

One example, was his first task as chief of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) where he and his staff were required to monitor the high level of alcohol consumption at Kaneohe Bay Sand Bar. It was an issue that the community wanted addressed and put a stop to the drinking and partying that had gotten out of control. The decision to make their presence known on the water helped to control the crowd, enforce the law if necessary, and begin to restore the environmental balance to the bay's waters. It was an opportunity as a first time chief for the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) to present a positive image to the community for a situation that had long been over-looked.

Finally, I want to end this testimony with a quote from an interview that my brother did right before his retirement. "What I'm happy to do and have tried to do is to resolve conflicts in such a way that it's not always about a badge and gun." "It's about sitting down and talking story and helping one another, listening very carefully to what a community is feeling, what an individual is feeling, and recognizing that the law isn't always empathetic to that person or that community's sense of being victimized by population growth or other environmental pressures affecting their resources."

It is with this in mind, that I believe my brother, with his years of experience in serving the Native Hawaiian community as a conservation officer; will allow him to serve his community yet in another capacity as Hawaiian Homes Commissioner for Maui. It is his commitment to the Native Hawaiian community and the future generations to follow that will benefit this new role that he is being considered for. It is one of great magnitude and like so many other roles he has taken on in his lifetime it will be to focus on the needs and the well being of his community.

Mahalo,

Wanda Leilani Arvin

CALVIN K. Y. SAY
SPEAKER EMERITUS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 23, 2018



Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Chair, Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm 222
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro,

I am writing in strong support of Randy Kalei Awo's nomination to serve as a Commissioner on the Hawaiian Homes Commission

Randy Awo was born in Waimanalo on Hawaiian Homestead Lands.

I have known Randy since we were sophomores at St Louis High School in 1967-68. We became good friends and we maintained our friendship after our graduation from St Louis in 1970. I say that Randy was a good old Catholic boy, even though he wasn't Catholic. Both during high school and after, Randy and I would go diving and body surfing at Makapuu

I later became a legislator and Randy worked for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Division of Conservation & Resources Enforcement (DOCARE). He moved to Maui to become a field officer, then field supervisor, and then the Branch Chief or District Manager. Finally, he became the DOCARE Administrator and worked here in town while his family remained on Maui.

Based upon my knowledge of Randy over a 50-year period, he is a person with a good heart. He is a family man dedicated to his ohana and his grandchildren. When Randy was at DLNR, I found his approach to difficult problems to be ho'oponopono, one of bringing people together to resolve their differences and iron out their issues. As DOCARE Administrator he had large responsibilities, like an apua'a, and was effective in bringing all of the units of his division together.

I end by recalling the image of Randy captured by the Star Advertiser showing him throwing his net into the sea on Maui, illustrating his philosophy of "catch only what you can eat."

I can personally vouch that Randy Awo is a person of exceptional character and integrity. He has also had a career of outstanding achievement. We need a person like him on the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Sincerely,

Calvin K. Y. Say
Speaker Emeritus
Hawaii State House of Representatives

Speaker Emeritus Calvin K.Y. Say

District 20 - St Louis Heights | Palolo Valley | Maunalani Heights | Wilhelmina Rise | Kaimuki
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 433 | Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone (808) 586-6900 | Email repsay@capitol.hawaii.gov

1444

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 4:14:45 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 10:54:43 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Testifying for Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Support	Yes

Comments:

In STRONG SUPPORT.

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 10:56:29 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Testifying for Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

We are native Hawaiian Beneficiaries & we STRONGLY SUPPORT RANDY AWO for DHHL Commissioner. Mahalo.

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 5:05:55 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Konaneakamahina de la Nux	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to support the confirmation of Randy Awo to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 5:11:55 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
R. Kaipo Gomes	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 5:19:59 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adam Gomes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/23/2018 8:01:34 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lon Paresa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. I strongly support Mr. Randy Awo as a Commissioner for Hawaiian Home Lands. Having known Randy for 40 years, I can say that he a caring, compassionate and hard workig person. Please let me know if you need anything else. Mahalo.

March 23, 2018

Ms. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Mr. Brickwood Galuteria, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha,

It is my distinct pleasure to write this letter of support for the nomination of Randy K. Awo to the Hawaiian Homes Commission for a term to expire on June 30, 2019. His 26 years of experience with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Conservation & Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) offers the Commission a wealth of knowledge and skills that few other candidates possess. In addition, his upbringing in Waimānalo, O'ahu, provided him a foundation that was based on Hawaiian values of how people are expected to engage with others and with the 'āina. In those days, the term "cultural practitioner" was not readily known or used like it is today, it was simply the way that people like Randy were raised to think about their place in the world and their personal kuleana to making Hawai'i a better home for all. Witnessing the eviction of Native Hawaiians from Sand Island and other instances of separating people from the land, etched an image in his mind that remains strong to this day and fuels his desire to help bring about positive change.

Over the past 13 years, I have been privileged to collaborate with Randy in my professional capacity as an environmental educator, media and outreach specialist, and Maui County's Environmental Coordinator (2007-2010), a position in which I was appointed by former Mayor Charmaine Tavares. In my role as Environmental Coordinator, there were many contentious issues occurring in our community at the time, such as the Hawai'i Superferry and major conflicts between fishermen and other ocean enthusiasts. During my tenure with the County, we enjoyed a highly collaborative relationship with Maui DOCARE, which resulted in many positive outcomes for our community. I could always count on the support of DOCARE to help resolve complex, multi-agency issues. As Chief of Maui DOCARE, Randy could have chosen to turn me away and focus instead on issues that were important only to his division's mission, but he always made the time and effort to work with other agencies and organizations, simply because it was the right thing to do. Again, this is a reflection of his upbringing and understanding his kuleana to his community.

Randy's many accomplishments and accolades can be reviewed through his resume. What I wish for you to know about him is that having him on the Commission will definitely change the quality of the conversation about Hawaiian Homes issues and initiatives, inserting more balance, wider and deeper perspectives, collaboration with key stakeholders, and innovation. Randy's style is open, honest, and inclusive. His strong and positive reputation as a community leader will follow him to his new role as Commissioner and benefit the Department of Hawaiian Homelands beyond bounds. I am certain that his upbringing combined with his work experience and depth of insight will elevate and accelerate the DHHL's mission. His commitment to return Native Hawaiians to their land to build self-sufficiency and re-establish their sense of self-worth is of supreme importance because he understands firsthand the power of Aloha 'Āina.

Your consideration of my comments is appreciated. I urge the committee to vote unanimously in favor of Randy K. Awo for a seat on the Hawaiian Homes Commission. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Kuhea4@gmail.com or (808) 446-5082.

Mahalo nui loa,



Kūhea Asiu
Wailuku, Maui

Rhiannon Chandler-‘Iao
700 16th Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816
maramahawaii@gmail.com

March 21, 2018

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Chair, Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai‘i State Capitol, Room #222
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Randy Awo’s Nomination to the Position of
Hawaiian Homes Commissioner for Maui

Aloha nō e Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members,

It is an honor to write this letter of strong recommendation for Randy Awo in his nomination to the position of Hawaiian Homes Commissioner for Maui. I met Randy on Maui in 2008, in my capacity as the Director of an environmental nonprofit. At the time, Randy was the Branch Chief for the Maui County DOCARE, under the DLNR.

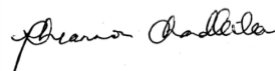
From early on, Randy was a source of inspiration to me. He served with tremendous heart and dedication in his role on Maui, and I sensed that his dedication was steeped in his deep and genuine aloha for our ‘āina. He loved and protected our natural and cultural resources like someone would protect their family, and I will always remember that.

I believe Randy will be an effective advocate in representing the island of Maui. He is honorable, kind, and committed to protecting our ‘āina and people. Over the past 10 years, I have seen him face the types of adversity and challenges that tend to accompany advancement into leadership roles. I admired how Randy faced those challenges with careful consideration and a collaborative approach. I think those qualities will make him an excellent Commissioner, especially in light of the complex issues facing DHHL.

I also believe Randy’s appointment is strategically beneficial to the health, sustainability, and legacy of these lands. Although I now work in Honolulu, my ‘ohana resides on Hawaiian Homes Land in Waiohuli, Maui, near Kula. I could not imagine a better representative for our ‘ohana than Randy. To have someone with his unique understanding and experience, making land use decisions, is a gift to future generations.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide these comments. If you have any questions, I would welcome your email.

Aloha nui,



Rhiannon R. Tereari‘i Chandler-‘Iao

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/23/2018 2:48:26 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wayne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mr. Awo has a lifetime of dedicated public service and community involvement and in my opinion would be a tremendous asset to the Commission in the fulfillment of its responsibilities. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to offer this testimony in SUPPORT of Mr. Awo's nomination.

Mahalo nui,
Wayne Tanaka

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/23/2018 4:39:54 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lana Liw	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My family and I live on Keokea farm lots on the island of Maui. Born and raised on Maui, I have seen the drastic changes of this island and the plight of Hawaiians in particular. With Randy's vast knowledge and experience as assistant chief of DLNR statewide, I feel confident that he can lead DHHL in a pono direction . His empathizing ways and cool-under-pressure demeanor will be an asset for the DHHL communities. He has proven himself as leader of integrity throughout his career.

I ask you to please install Randy Awo as Maui's DHHL Commisioner.

Mahalo,

Lana Low

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/23/2018 4:57:24 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
maluhia Low	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I nearby support the approval of Randy Awo as Hawaiian Homes Commisioner

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/23/2018 8:10:50 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leilehua Low	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in support of Randy Awo's nomination to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. It is my firm belief that Mr. Awo's cultural background, first hand experience, and knowledge of Hawaiian homesteads makes him an excellent candidate for this important leadership role.

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/24/2018 8:17:38 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alika	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm writing today to express my appreciation for allowing me the opportunity to write my testimony on behalf of the Hawaiian Homes Commissioner for Maui. I know without a doubt that Randy Awo will help the people of Maui who reside on Hawaiian Home lands, not only because he's my Uncle, but because I know his beliefs, his ability to make a difference with the knowledge and experiences he has encountered through his years of being born and raised in Hawaii and his journey he has taken through his career. He has made such an impact on my life and everyone whose life he has touched. His compassion, love for the island and all the people who live on it are all better people for knowing him. His skills in conflict resolution, development for what's needed on the land, making the tough decisions on who are able to remain in their homes & taking all the facts into consideration is a skill that can't just be taught, you need the passion, which is instilled in him at his core. His innovation will benefit all of us who live here with not only supporting, but by creating opportunities for homes and other ideas for agriculture properties. He will take everything into consideration, and will be fair with his decision. There's not enough words to express how much confidence I have in him to make a difference for all of us who reside on Hawaiian Homelands. He's what we need and have been waiting for all these years. His credentials is a bonus, because his heart and all that he's made of will be such a blessing for the island of Maui.

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/24/2018 9:34:30 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brooks Tamaye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I support the appointment of Randy Awo to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

I have known and worked with Randy for over 20 years and what has always come through is his passion and desire to serve Hawai'i and it's people. He has a deep motivation to do what's right for this special place on earth we call home.

Randy is intelligent and has a good understanding of the complexities that shape our society and lives. He is open-minded and a great listener who gathers facts to determine the best course of action. He is fair, objective and selfless in his decision making. One of Randy's greatest assets is his ability to bridge gaps with various communities, agencies, user groups etc. bringing them together to one table for discussions seeking common ground on often contentious issues.

It's these qualities and more that I believe will make Randy a great Hawaiian Homes Commissioner.

Mahalo for your consideration

Brooks Tamaye

Testimony of
Jason K. Redulla

Before the Senate Committee on
Hawaiian Affairs

Tuesday, March 27, 2018
1:35 PM
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016

In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 515 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE RANDY AWO,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE ON 6-30-19

I am writing to submit testimony to express my strong support of the nomination and confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Randy Awo, to the Hawaiian Homes Commission, for a term to expire on June 30, 2019.

I have personally worked with Mr. Awo, when he was the Enforcement Chief of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources. During this time, I have personally witnessed Mr. Awo's strong leadership capabilities as he was tasked with several challenging situations. These include Mr. Awo's assignment as the Incident Commander for the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement during the 2011 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference (APEC), the marine security zone operation pertaining to the Cruise Ship Safari Explorer in Kaunakakai, Molokai in early 2012 and the Department of the Interior's meetings across the state in the Summer of 2014. During all of these operations, Mr. Awo's knowledge, and ability to collaborate with partner agencies and the community were evident, and resulted in the maintenance of law and order, and peaceful protest.

It is very clear to me, that Mr. Awo has the experience, capability and commitment necessary to insure that the Hawaiian Homes Commission fulfills its fiduciary duties to its beneficiaries.

I strongly urge the Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee to vote in support of Mr. Awo's nomination and send this measure to the floor for consideration. I also urge the entire Senate to provide its positive advice and consent in support of this nomination.

Thank you for an opportunity to testify on this measure.

NOTE: I am a State Civil Service Employee. The Testimony provided here is submitted in my capacity as an independent private citizen.

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/24/2018 5:00:11 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
howard rodrigues	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I worked with Randy Awo for over 10 years and am in full support for his confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/25/2018 7:07:46 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Felicida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/25/2018 7:12:06 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Larry Pacheco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of Mr. Randy K. Awo for confirmation to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands Commission, for the position of Commissioner for the Island of Maui.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Randy for over 24 years on both a professional and personal level. I worked with Randy for 12 years with the Maui branch of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement. As my direct supervisor, Randy always carried himself in a professional manner and supported our division and staff in everyway possible. Randy always worked very hard to protect the natural resources here on the Island of Maui and throughout the State both as a field officer and later when promoted to administrative positions within the Maui branch and also as the Division Administrator. As the Administrator of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement, Randy held a tremendous responsibility or Kuleana for the protection of Hawaii's resources. The challenge of managing a law enforcement entity, providing proper guidance, training and working with multiple agencies at the County, State and Federal level has definitely provided him the experience and knowledge do an excellent job as Commissioner.

I feel that Randy has the integrity and credibility to do very well as the Maui Commissioner for the Department of Hawaiian Homes. His ability to communicate and work with all people, will be a tremendous asset in supporting the mission of DHHL.

I thank you for this opportunity to give my support to Mr. Randy K. Awo for the position of DHHL Commissioner for the Island of Maui.

Larry Pacheco

Maui District Superintendent

State of Hawaii

Department of Land & Natural Resources

Division of State Parks

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/25/2018 8:47:48 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clarence Yamamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I strongly support Randy Awo's appointment to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. His knowledge on the past and current native Hawaiian issues will be an asset to the commission. As the former Branch Chief for DLNR-Maui DOCARE, I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to work, but more importantly learn from Randy Awo.

His abundance of knowledge and understanding of the native Hawaiian issues were most notable, when we had to deal with some very contentious issues. The issues included public hearings on East Maui water rights between the taro farmers and East Maui Irrigation and the Department of the Interior public hearings, to see if the Federal government should establish government to government relations with the native Hawaiian community.

We were able to ensure the safety of all persons who attended those hearings and allow all parties to be heard. It is my belief that it was attributed to the respect we were given, based on Randy Awo's leadership, guidance, understanding and sensitivity to those issues that would ultimately have a direct and lasting effect on the native Hawaiians.

Sincerely,

Clarence "Matt" Yamamoto

Retired Maui Branch Chief, DLNR-DOCARE

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/25/2018 10:46:52 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zuriel Cabanting	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I Support Randy Awo for the Hawaiian Homes Commission candidate. His mana'o (wisdom and knowledge) and understanding of knowing the Hawaiian lands and being an amazing individual and educator will help the Hawaiian Homes grow into a better community to lend helping hands as well. He is an all around candidate and best fits for this position, he'll make the best decision and not only that he has integrity which is the best thing to have to be able to hold this position. The love he has and compassion to do his best is what I see and he will not let the Hawaiian community down.

Mahalo,

Zuriel Cabanting

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/26/2018 2:27:07 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lori Buchanan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write in strong support of Hawaiian Homes Commission Gubernatorial nominee Mr. Randy Awo. I know Mr. Awo in a professional capacity and can attest to his expertise and knowledge and feel he will serve the department and his Maui constituents with integrity. Please confirm Mr. Awo to the Hawaiian Homes Commission for the island of Maui.

Mahalo,

Lori Buchanan

Molokai

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/26/2018 4:08:09 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
P. Porras	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, Portia P. is submitting this written testimony in support of RANDY AWO, as the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, for term to expire 06-30-2019.

It is evident from his impressive resume that he is qualified for this position.

Randy Awo himself, has been a beneficiary of the Hawaiian Homes Act for years. I know he will work hard and diligently for the betterment of the native Hawaiians and what the Hawaiian Homes Act stands for. He will also do so, to honor it's founder, Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole.

I have confidence in my decision to support Randy Awo. He will always support what is best for Hawaii Nei, it's people and Hawai'i's natural resources. I personally admired how he was not in favor of the Superferry, when Maui's natural resources were being raped by outer islanders and the negative impact it would have on our natural resources. I also admire what he did for the preservation and maintenance of the Heiau sites that were being neglected.

I am asking you to consider and confirm the nomination of Randy Awo for the Hawaiian Homelands Commissioner. Mahalo for your time.

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/26/2018 7:20:51 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Esther Kiaaina	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/26/2018 7:59:14 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert J Hall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Bob Hall and I strongly support the confirmation of RANDY AWO for Maui Commissioner to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. I've had the privilege of knowing "Randy" since we were students at Saint Louis High School. Throughout his career with State Government, Randy has been deliberate and focused on doing things right. His leadership and level-headedness while at DLNR, particularly on native issues, has averted potential misunderstandings without compromising either parties beliefs or views. I am confident he will be a strong, yet fair advocate for native Hawaiians, the Hawaiian Homes Commission and the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920.

E O Kalaepohaku,

Bob Hall

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/26/2018 8:13:10 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isaac de la Nux	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Isaac de la Nux and I live on Maui in Waiehu Kou 3 with my wife and 4 keiki. I am honored to support the nomination of Randy Awo. There is no one else that I feel that is more certified, qualified, and deserving of this position. Randy Awo has proven himself to be a very stern yet fair individual throughout the years from being a correctional officer to a DOCARE officer to finally ending with working career as the Administrative Chief of DOCARE. This position shall be filled by an individual who will represent and speak for the people of Hawai'i. One who will hear the voices of those whose lives are affected personally by the decisions made within this department. Once again I am whole heartedly honored to support such a caring and loving individual who has proven to always have the best interest of the people in every decision he has made.

Mahalo nui,

Isaac de la Nux

March 26, 2018

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, March 27, 2018, 1:35 pm, Conference Room 016
RE: GM 514, Strong Support for the Nomination of Randy Awo to the Hawaiian Homes Commission

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Galuteria, and Committee Members,

My name is Jonathan Likeke Scheuer. I was born and raised on the island of O`ahu and have worked on managing conflict involving natural resources and Hawaiian concerns for over two decades. Over the course of that time, I have had the honor and pleasure of working with Mr. Awo as a member of the O`ahu Island Burial Council (when he served with the Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement), as a private citizen, and as a consultant serving the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and appearing before the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC).

Based on my personal experiences, I strongly believe Mr. Awo's knowledge, intelligence, and demeanor are extremely well suited to service on the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Casual observers might accept an idea frequently repeated in the media that the number of homes built is the only measure of the success of the Hawaiian Homes Commission. However, the HHC manages the DHHL, a trust of nearly 200,000 acres of land; they largely institute their own zoning controls; they act as a landlord and lender for residential properties and a developer of commercial lands; they manage extensive and valued natural resources; and they own and operate four water systems. In the course of doing this they must interact with and manage the expectations of tens of thousands of beneficiaries whose individual desires and visions are widely diverse.

With that vast kuleana held by the HHC, any individual trustee might be well served to have depth in any one of the following areas: state government, especially budgeting and procurement; land management; Hawaiian cultural practices; conflict resolution; and navigating individuals and organizations with diverse and diverging agendas.

Mr. Awo has depth in not only one of these areas, but all of them. Hawai'i is phenomenally fortunate that he is willing to serve in this manner and I urge you to give him your unqualified recommendation.

Mahalo for your consideration of my mana`o.

Jonathan Likeke Scheuer, Ph.D.

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/26/2018 9:37:53 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Summer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/26/2018 9:48:46 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pua Canto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Kenekoa/Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Luna Ho‘omalu/Chair
Kenekoa/Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Hope Luna Ho‘omalu/ Vice Chair

Ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo Iwakāluakumamāiwa
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

‘Aha Kau Kānāwai 2018
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Pō‘alua, Malaki 27, 2018/Tuesday, March 27, 2018
1:35pm Lumi ‘Aha Kūkā 016/Conference Room 016

in consideration of

**GM515: SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RANDY AWO**

To the honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair, the honorable Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the confirmation of Randy Awo to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

I have known Randy for more than two decades, first as a youth growing up in Maui and now as an adult. Because Maui was, and continues to be, a relatively small community I have had the great opportunity to witness his unwavering commitment to his homeland in a variety of instances throughout time. Randy exhibits traits of compassion, critical thinking, and a clearly defined purpose that our world needs more of.

His lifetime of service to the community, both in his various roles within DOCARE/DLNR and outside of his vocation, attest to the values which I believe he carries through on all endeavors he embarks upon. His leadership is reflected in his ability to be a role model for many in the community.

I have no doubt that he makes an excellent addition to the Commission, bringing new ideas, well-thought out reasoning, and the ability to see and value the perspective of others. Many thanks for accepting this testimony in STRONG support for the confirmation of Mr. Randy Awo to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

O wau no me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Kainoa Horcajo

March 23, 2018

The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Senate, State of Hawaii

SUBJECT: **Letter of Support for the Confirmation of the Nomination of Mr. Randy Awo to the Hawaiian Homes Commission, GM 515**

Aloha. Being both a resident of the Waiehu Kou Hawaiian Homestead since 2010, and the Maui District Land Agent for the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) since 2005; I have had the honor of both living near, and working with Mr. Awo.

In both my personal and work related experience, I have found Mr. Awo to be of exceptional character manifest by a cool demeanor and calculated thought and speech pattern. He works well in times of crisis by diffusing situations through methodical observation, analysis and prudent approach to issues at hand.

It has been my experience that effective leaders of Hawaiian organizations require a unique set of skills and traits. It requires the ability to understand and express the values and desires of the community being represented in a consistent, clear and concise way, with a generous spirit that prioritizes community benefit over personal gain. Mr. Awo does have the traits and skill set that will enable him to be an effective leader in his role as Maui District Representative to Hawaiian Homes Commission.

It is anticipated that Mr. Awo will increase stability within a homesteading program that has been challenged with controversy for decades. His experience and approach to decision making is needed and will help to guide the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands toward reaching its goals and objectives that serve native Hawaiians. Mr. Awo has the professional and life experience needed to provide a solid foundation to help guide our community in the 21st century. Therefore I submit this testimony in confidence that Mr. Awo will be a true asset to our homesteading program. Mahalo for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, please call me at (808) 264-0783.

Aloha,



Daniel Ornellas, Resident
Waiehu Kou Phase 3, Hawaiian Homestead
128 Kaulana Na Pua Circle
Waiehu, HI 96793

CHONG, NISHIMOTO, SIA, NAKAMURA & GOYA

ANDY M. AKATAKE
 ROBERT A. CHONG
 STEPHEN G. DYER
 PATRICIA T. FLEM
 STEVEN L. GOTO
 KENNETH T. GOYA
 KJANI ENOUE
 OAH, HI KANG
 DOBRY F. H. MEISNER
 RONALD T. MICHIGORA
 GARY S. MIYAMOTO
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JOHN S. NISHIMOTO
 ZALE T. OKAZAKI
 RONALD M. SHIGEMARUKA
 JEFFREY H. K. SIA
 LAUREN A. SUGAI
 PHILIP S. UESATO
 MICHAEL J. VAN DYKE
 J. THOMAS WEBER
 DEANE W. WONG

RODNEY S. NISHIDA (1949-2004)

March 26, 2018

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
 Chair, Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
 Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222
 415 S. Beretania Street
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Via Facsimile: 586-7797

Aloha e Senator Shimabukuro:

I fully support without any reservations whatsoever the confirmation of **Randy Kafei Awo** to serve as the Hawaiian Homes Commissioner for Maui for a term that expires June 30, 2019.

Like Randy, I too was born in 1952 and grew up in Waimanalo, Oahu. I have known him and his 'ohana virtually my entire life. Before attending a private parochial school in Kuliuouou, we both attended Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School and were in neighboring kindergarten classes. After intermediate school, we went on to St. Louis High School, graduating in 1970. My parents and I continued to live in Waimanalo throughout my entire life. Although I went away for college and law school on the mainland and currently live in town, I still consider myself a "native" of Waimanalo.

While growing up in Waimanalo in the 50's, 60's, and 70's, I believe many of us felt regardless of whether we grew up on Hawaiian Homestead land, the old plantation lands, the farm lots, or the private residential lands malcai of Kalaniana'ole Highway, we were all living compatibly in a very special place on O'ahu, affectionately referred to as "Nalo Country." For many of us, we believed it to be "God's country" and proud to be living there. Indeed, I still maintain my parents' residential and agricultural properties there. There was never any doubt the area of Waimanalo which anchored its indigenous people to the land were those fortunate to be living on Hawaiian Homestead Lands. One of those families was the Awo 'ohana whom many came to know because George "Keoki" Awo, Randy's father, was the well-respected State fish and game warden for many years.

While Randy and I both majored in political science during our undergraduate years, we took separate career paths. He spent the majority of his career in government service with the DLNR, more specifically the Division of Conservation & Resources Enforcement

GM-515

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 9:25:56 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kuuleianuhea Awo-Chun	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Kuuleianuhea Awo-Chun, an individual citizen and former resident on Hawaiian Homelands. I am also Randy Awo's niece. I am writing in support of GM 515 and the confirmation of Randy Awo to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Randy Awo will be an asset to the Hawaiian Homes Commission and add value to the organization. Over time and through his many life and job experiences, he has become an extremely effective leader and well-respected community member across Hawaiian communities in Hawaii. On many occasions, when Native Hawaiian communities were in conflict or needed support, they called upon Randy Awo to help facilitate change, growth, and productive conversations. In one example, the Waimanalo community engaged in conflict with people outside the community taking ocean resources at a rate the community felt was excessive. Rather than continue to escalate, the community reached out to Randy Awo for support and resources. His knowledge of the law combined with his connection to the community and his patient, calm nature helped provide avenues to the Waimanalo community that allowed them to feel empowered without a sense of vigilanteism. There have been numerous occasions where his presence has helped create a sense of calm, where people can express themselves emotionally in a space that is safe and productive.

I look to my uncle as a model kanaka and alaka'i. From him, I am learning more about how to lead with strength and conviction for the betterment of the people, communities, and aina resources that we serve. His appointment to the Commission could provide the same kind of support to those he reaches in that capacity. He is generous, well-spoken, diligent, responsible, and was raised on Hawaiian Homes. Who better to serve the homestead community than Randy Awo? I support GM515 and his appointment to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

From: shimabukuro2 - Kaliko
To: HWNTestimony
Subject: FW: Written testimony for Randy Awo
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 9:55:06 AM

From: Sen. Maile Shimabukuro
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 9:46 AM
To: shimabukuro2 - Kaliko <shimabukuro2@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: FW: Written testimony for Randy Awo

From: Kaipo Gomes [<mailto:kaipog3@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 6:56 AM
To: Sen. Maile Shimabukuro <senshimabukuro@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Written testimony for Randy Awo

Aloha Senator Shimabukuro:

My name is Kaipo Gomes and I appreciate this opportunity in submitting this written testimony on behalf of my brother-in-law Randy Awo, who is being considered as a Gubernatorial Nominee as Commissioner for the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

The very first time I met Randy was in May of 1977, almost 41 years ago. My sister Momi was attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa and came home for a visit, and Randy came with her. He and my sister both were attending UH Manoa at the time. He walked into our home with a backpack, long hair, and a guitar, smiled, and introduced himself. I remember so vividly because that was the day I came home from the hospital with my second child. I was sitting down on a hali'i with my baby, he bent over and kissed me hello and said, I quote, " oh, cute the baby, can carry." Today, that baby girl is 41 years old and adores her uncle Randy.

From that blessed day to this day I was fortunate to have seen Randy as my sisters boyfriend, to becoming her husband, and the father of my niece, nephews, and grand nieces and nephews. Not to mention an awesome member of our 'ohana.

Over the years, I've seen Randy not only take responsibility as a provider for his family, but a man who truly loved, cared, nurtured, and respected his family. He loved my sister unconditionally and my sister loved him. I saw him work hard, diligently and faithfully, to make sure that the decisions he would now make would impact his family towards a better life.

Randy worked for the State of Hawaii Correctional Facility here on Maui for several years. He then applied for the Department of Land & Natural Resources where he landed a job as a field officer, and several years later his experiences afforded him a position as a field supervisor, and on to becoming the DOCARE'S Branch Chief for Maui County. For the last four years he became the DOCARE Administrator. During that time Randy commuted to and

from Maui and Oahu which was a big sacrifice of himself and his family. Even then his family understood that this major change would truly affect the dynamics of the family because Randy would not be there every day for them. Although the impact would be great, his family knew the kind of man Randy was and the experiences he possessed that would benefit his new role as DOCARE administrator. With that, they gave Randy their blessing and supported his decision to take that sacrificial role until he retired. In retirement, Randy continued to find ways to give back to the community and attended Commission meetings and community gatherings that began in September of 2017. Randy loves Hawaii, its people, culture, value, history and the preservation thereof.

So you see, from growing up on Hawaiian Homestead Lands in Waimanalo many, many years ago, having the career that offered him so many challenges, experiences, and responsibilities which afforded him the opportunity to meet so many people both in high places and just good old home grown friends, molded him in the man he is today, a good man, a fair man, a responsible man, a respected man, a man who listens, and a man of great integrity. This has brought Randy back full circle to live again on Hawaiian Homestead Lands where he now resides with his family. The land that Randy loves and respects.

This is why I believe that my brother-in-law will be an asset as Commissioner for Hawaiian Homelands here on Maui because of his personal experiences, self-determination, and the ability of knowing the importance of preserving the traditions and culture of the native Hawaiian people.

In closing, I want to say that my family has been truly blessed to have Randy in ours lives. He is loved and respected by my husband, daughters, granddaughters, great granddaughter and of course myself.

Mahalo for this honored opportunity in allowing me to write this testimony on behalf of my brother- in- LOVE, Randy Awo.

Mahalo,

Kaipo Gomes

